

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 remain pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claim 1 has have been amended herein.

Claims 1-7 were objected to for an informality. In response, the second occurrence of "a motor" has been changed to --the motor--. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims are requested.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2002-127541 (Shimomura et al.). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shimomura et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,679,599 (Jurrens et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,988,809 (Yokoi et al.). Claim 7 was rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable in further view of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2001-261181 (Asada). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a recording apparatus for recording on a recording medium by a recording head. The apparatus includes a conveying roller, a first both-side roller, a first pinch roller, a second both-side roller and a second pinch roller. The conveying roller is provided upstream of the recording head to convey the recording medium. The first both-side roller inverts the

recording medium of which one side has been subjected to recording by the recording head, is driven by a motor and is abutted with the one side of the recording medium, which has been subjected to the recording. The first pinch roller is rotated by moving with the first both-side roller, and is abutted with the other side of the recording medium, which has not been subjected to the recording. The second both-side roller is provided downstream of the first both-side roller for inverting the recording medium of which the one side has been subjected to the recording by the recording head, is driven by the motor and is abutted with the one side of the recording medium, which has been subjected to the recording. The second pinch roller is rotated by moving with the second both-side roller, and is abutted with the other side of the recording medium, which has not been subjected to the recording.

With the above arrangement, since both the first both-side roller and the second both-side roller can be abutted with the one side of the recording medium that has been subjected to recording and both are motor-driven, the recording on the recording medium is less subject to being damaged.

Shimomura et al. is directed to a printer having an inverting path 81 with inverting rollers 82, 83. Various pinch rollers are depicted in Figure 2 to press a recording medium against the inverting rollers 82, 83. However, following the paper path for inversion, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the recorded side of the recording medium that is passed through the inverting path 81 does not abut against either inverting roller 82 or inverting roller 83. Accordingly, Shimomura et al. cannot disclose or suggest at least first and second both-side rollers that are driven by a motor and abutted

with the one side of the recording medium which has been subjected to recording, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Shimomura et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Jurrens et al., Yokoi et al. and Asada were cited for teaching characteristics or materials of various rollers. However, these citations are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Shimomura et al. noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.


For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 1. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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